

Appl. No. 09/727,098
Amd. Dated April 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action dated January 28, 2005, and the Advisory Action dated April 13, 2005, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 22, 23, and 26-28 have been allowed. Claims 5-8, 24, 29, and 30 have been rejected. Claim 9 has been objected to.

Claims 5-8, 24, 29, and 30 have been cancelled, and claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 27 has been amended per a request by the Examiner as set forth on page 2 of the Final Office Action.

In view of the cancellation of claims 5-8, 24, 29, and 30, claims 1-4, 9, 22, 23, and 26-28 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-4, 22, 23, and 26-28 are allowable over the cited art, and that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Although the Applicant is of the belief that claim 5, from which claim 9 depends, is allowable over the cited art, the Applicant has rewritten claim 9 in independent form purely to expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claims 5-8, 24, 29 and 30

Claims 5-7, 24, 29, and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,363,077, issued March 26, 2002 to Wong et al. (hereinafter

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"Wong"). Claim 8 has been rejected 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,775 issued February 26, 2002 to Yu (hereinafter "Yu").

As the Applicant has cancelled claims 5-8, 24, 29, and 30, the Examiner's rejections of these claims is now believed to be moot. The cancellation of claims 5-8, 24, 29, and 30 is not to be construed to be an admission on the part of the Applicant of any agreement with the Examiner's rejections of these claims. In fact, the Applicant believes that claims 5-8, 24, 29, and 30 each contain subject matter that is allowable over the cited art. However, in a sincere effort to further the prosecution of the instant application, the Applicant has cancelled these claims. The Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce these claims, as well as claims of a similar scope, in any future continuation or continuation-in-part application based on the instant application.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,



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